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# Typification and New Combinations in *Abrus* Adanson (Fabaceae, Faboideae, Abreae)

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**ABSTRACT.** A lectotype is indicated for *Abrus melanospermus* Hasskarl. Two new combinations are provided for widely distributed taxa of *Abrus* occurring in Central, West, and East Africa, Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, and New Caledonia. These nomenclatural clarifications are necessary antecedents for the consideration of this genus for *Flora Zambesiaca*.

During the preparation of the treatment of Abreae (Fabaceae, Faboideae) for *Flora Zambesiaca*, taking into account the flora of Caprivi Strip, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, it became clear that the designation of a lectotype for *Abrus melanospermus* Hasskarl was needed. The following new combinations are needed to treat the taxa of *Abrus* within the Flora region in accordance with current nomenclatural rules.

***Abrus melanospermus*** Hasskarl, Cat. hort. bot. bogor: 282. 1844. TYPE: Java. *Horsfield L. 14* (lectotype, designated here, K; isoelectotype, K).

*Abrus pulchellus* Wallich ex Thwaites, Enum. pl. zeyl: 91. 1859. Syn. nov. TYPE: Sri Lanka. Belanger, *Thwaites 1467* (isotypes, G, K, P).

There is no precedent established for designating types of taxa described by Hasskarl (1844). Here, numerous protologues of new species were published from cultivated material without a specimen reference, including the protologue of *Abrus melanospermus*. Two specimens at K comprise original material as defined by Article 9.7 footnote 1 of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (Greuter et al., 1994: 11), since it can be shown that the description validating the name was based upon this material.

At K there is one specimen with a handwritten label marked "Herb. Javanicum Dr. Horsfield, L. 14" and a determination, "*Abrus melanospermus*

Hassk." believed to have been penned by Hasskarl that has no conflict with the protologue for *A. melanospermus* cited above. This specimen with a young inflorescence I designate as the lectotype. Another specimen at K with a printed label indicating, "Herb. T. Horsfield, Java, Purchased 1859," then handwritten "L. 14, *Abrus melanospermus* Hassk. (M)," is from the same collection. This is also consistent with the protologue, but it lacks flowers and fruit and is here considered an isoelectotype.

Based on this lectotypification of *A. melanospermus*, the following new combinations are needed for infraspecific taxa of *Abrus* occurring in the *Flora Zambesiaca* region.

***Abrus melanospermus*** subsp. ***suffruticosus*** (Boutique) D. Harder, comb. nov. Basionym: *Abrus suffruticosus* Boutique, Bull. Jard. Bot. État 25: 127. 1955. *Abrus pulchellus* subsp. *suffruticosus* (Boutique) Verdcourt, Kew Bull. 24: 249. 1970. TYPE: Democratic Republic of Congo. Lubumbashi [Elisabethville], *de Giorgi s.n.* (holotype, BR).

***Abrus melanospermus*** subsp. ***tenuiflorus*** (Benth) D. Harder, comb. nov. Basionym: *Abrus tenuiflorus* Benth, in Martius, Fl. bras. 15(1): 216. 1859. *Abrus pulchellus* subsp. *tenuiflorus* (Benth) Verdcourt, Kew Bull. 24: 250. 1970. TYPE: Brazil. Santarem, *Spruce 786* (holotype, K; isotypes, BM, C, G, NY).

#### Literature Cited

- Greuter, W., F. R. Barrie, H. M. Burdet, W. G. Chaloner, V. Demoulin, D. L. Hawksworth, P. M. Jørgensen, D. H. Nicholson, P. C. Silva, P. Trehane & J. McNeill. 1994. *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (Tokyo Code). Regnum Veg. 131.
- Hasskarl, J. K. 1844. *Catalogus plantarum in horto botanico bogoriensi cultarum alter*. Djakarta.